

# True Duerden

## Sisters High School February 2019 Student of the Month

True Duerden believes in doing her best. Whether it's on stage or in an art studio, or in the classroom, she always puts in the work necessary to excel.

"I've always wanted to try my best at everything I do," she says. You have to put in the work; things don't come easily."

True is president of the Jazz Choir, a Mr. SHS escort, a dancer and an artist — and an academic powerhouse. In her senior year, she's taking advanced placement classes in calculus, English, and art.

It's not all just about the work. "I also really enjoy them all," she says.

She plays piano and is learning guitar, but her primary passion in music is singing.

"When I go into music in college I'll focus on vocal," she said.

True plans to attend Lewis & Clark College in Portland, to study music, computer science and mathematics.

True says she feels a great connection with her graduating class, and great appreciation for the "interesting and special experiences that are unique to Sisters. It's been a wonderful time."

True thanked "everybody who has helped me get this far."

*"I'm so thrilled to hear that True Duerden is the student of the month. She is an incredibly talented vocalist. This was recently seen as she sang harmonies with Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt on the January Sisters Starry Nights Concert. True also played the major lead of The Fairy Godmother in last year's high school musical Cinderella. She has been involved in the high school Jazz Choir and Concert Choir for four years. Along with being talented, True is an ultimate organized student leader. Her peers elected her to be the Choir President this year and she is the head of the Sisters Quilt Show Bed and Breakfast. To top it all off, True just received a very healthy scholarship to study music in college this Fall. Congratulations True!"*

— Rick Johnson

*"True has been an awesome student and part of our school community for all of her four years at SHS. I'm always impressed with her*

*creativity, attitude, and though process. This is well-deserved! Congratulations True! — Bethany Gunnarson*

*"True is an awesome student and a wonderful student. She is talented, funny, and kind. I have absolutely loved being one of her teachers. I smile every time I see her."*

— Daniel O'Neill

*"True is a genuinely thoughtful and multi-talented young woman, well deserving of recognition."*

— Charlie Kanzig

*"True is a 'true' gem and I've loved getting to know her the past couple of years in my advanced Spanish classes. She is an extremely talented person in a myriad of ways and I can't wait to see what she continues to do in life beyond high school! She has a sweet and generous spirit that she shares with everyone that crosses her path. She is definitely deserving of this small honor in recognition of her valuable contributions to our school community."*

— Rebekah Dunkle

*"True's creative expression through dance, music, and art has contributed beauty and provoked thought for our school. Her dedicated work ethic and devotion to learning has inspired her classmates and raised the level of learning. Her kindness has reached many in*



*the community. I am grateful to have known True and look forward to seeing what she does in the future!"*

— Rima Givot

*"True is TRUELY the embodiment of grace and kindness. I appreciate her genuine compassion and heart connections with every person around her. It has been such an honor to be her teacher, yet I feel I have been the one taught. True's ability to set such a great example of the kind of human being I strive to be, has been a gift."*

— Heather Johnson

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